



Research on Iranian-American Voters & Issues in California

Findings From a Survey of Registered Iranian-American Voters in California

September 2023



Lake Research Partners

Washington, DC | Berkeley, CA | New York, NY
LakeResearch.com
202.776.9066

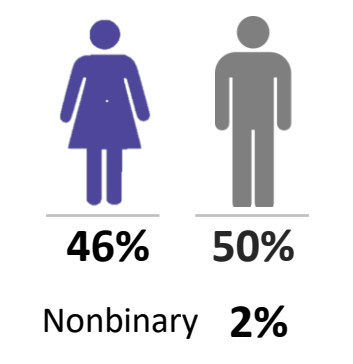
David Mermin
Emily Garner
Nikolai Schweber
Connor Olio

Survey Methodology

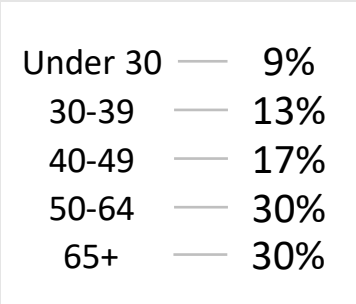
- Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey which was conducted by text-to-online interview. Phone numbers were drawn from the state voter file.
- The survey reached a total of 406 registered voters in the state of California who identify as Iranian American.
 - 85% of these voters voted in the 2020 Presidential election (and 51% voted in the primary).
 - The survey was distributed to a total of 60,819 registered voters in California flagged as Persian on the voter file. Voter were screened as self-identified Iranian American to qualify. The survey was closed when the desired sample size of 400+ was achieved.
- The survey was conducted from July 27 – August 2, 2023.
- The survey was conducted in English and Persian (Farsi).
- The sample was stratified by gender, region, age, and party registration to reflect the expected demographic composition of Iranian American registered voters in California.
 - Where there were slight differences between our survey sample and the expected Iranian American population, the data were weighted accordingly.
- The margin of error for the base sample is +/-4.9%. It is larger for subgroups and split-sampled questions.

Demographics of Iranian American Registered Voters in California

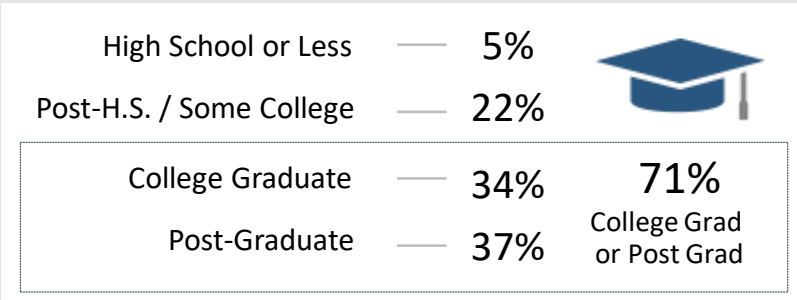
GENDER



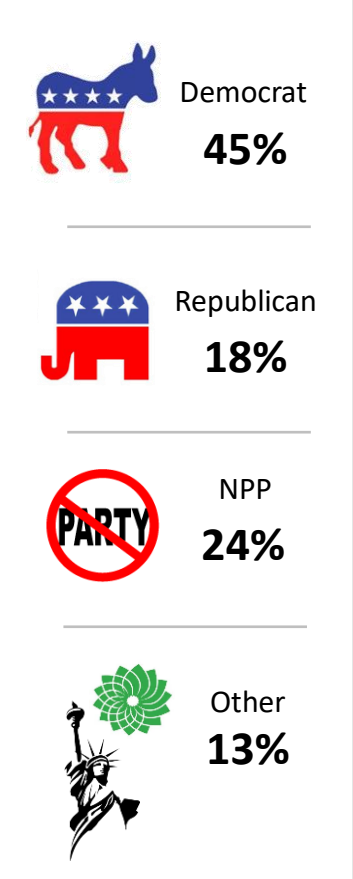
AGE



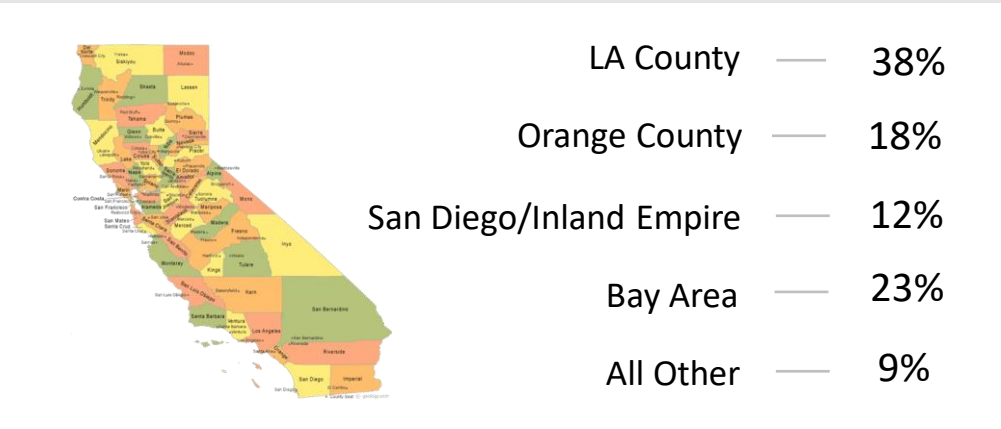
EDUCATION



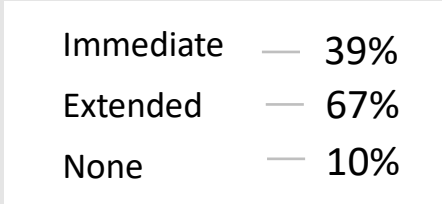
PARTY REGISTRATION



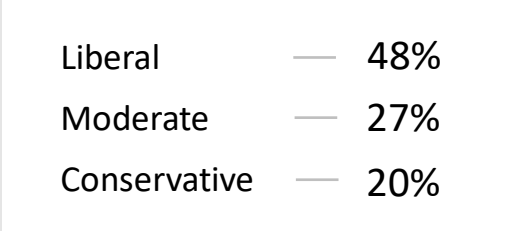
REGION



FAMILY IN IRAN



IDEOLOGY



**Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding, refusals, or multiple response questions

Voter Registration by Ideology

	Total	Democrat	Republican	NPP	Other
Liberal	48%	70%	7%	41%	40%
Moderate	27%	20%	15%	39%	42%
Conservative	20%	5%	69%	15%	11%

- Iranian-American voters in California are more liberal (48%) than conservative (20%).
- Seven in ten Democrats self-identify as liberal (70%) and seven in ten Republicans self-identify as conservative (69%).
- Only a small proportion of Democrats identify as conservative (5%) and Republicans as liberal (7%). These are potential cross-party voters who also may have outdated voter registrations – particularly likely in the case of Republicans.
- NPP and other voters also skew liberal. Both groups are closely split between identifying as liberal and moderate. Only a small proportion self-identify as conservative.

%s may not add up to 100 due to rounding and refusals

Executive Summary

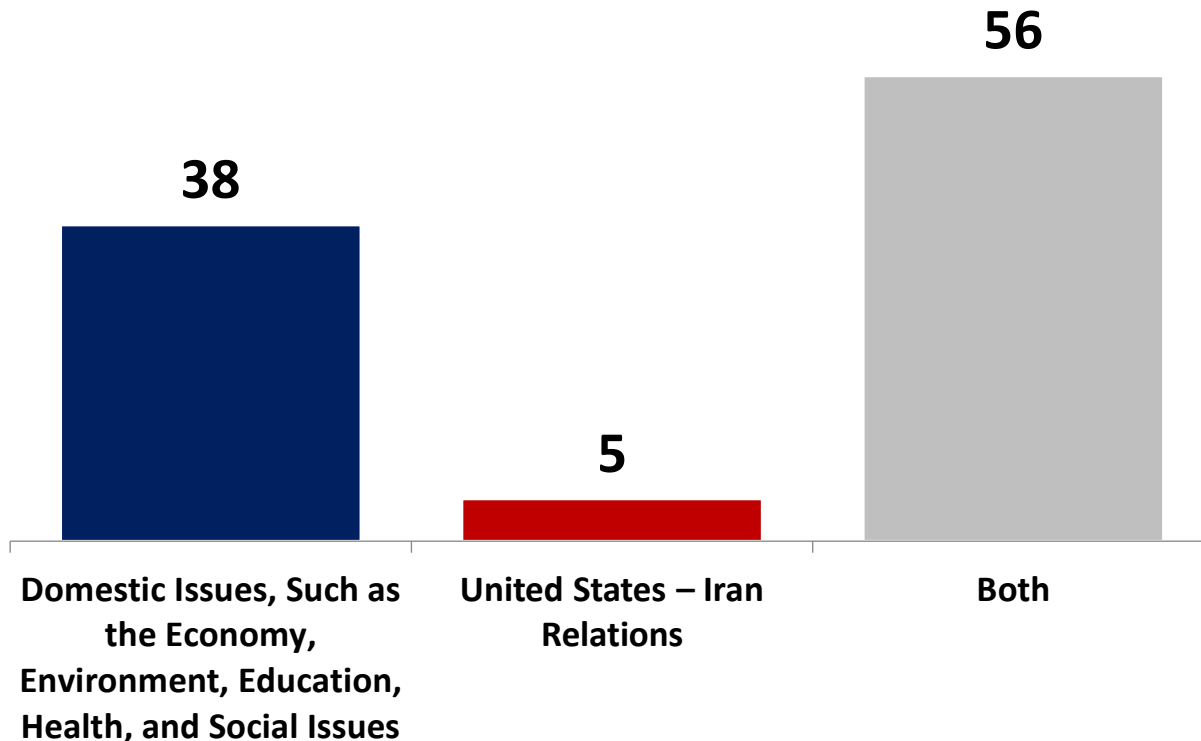
- Iranian Americans in California of all ideological orientations and party affiliations **support a more secular, Democratic Iran.**
 - A very strong majority say that a **Secular Democratic Republic aligns with their aspirations for the future ideology of Iran** (58%).
 - When it comes to the U.S. government dealing with Iran, their clear top priority is **developing a comprehensive policy to support the pro-democracy movement** (51%).
 - **Promoting human rights and democracy in Iran is a top policy priority** when it comes to U.S. – Iran relations (44%), particularly among liberals.
- Iranian Americans in California want to see **continued pressure on the Iranian regime.**
 - Their top policy priority when it comes to U.S. – Iran relations is **promoting regime change in Iran** (51%) by a solid margin.
 - They are open to a nuclear deal with Iran, but only if it does *not* include concessions to the regime (net +18). **They strongly oppose a nuclear deal that would include concessions** (net -20).
 - Other important policy priorities in this area include **not releasing funds to the regime** (30%) and **enforcing targeted economic sanctions** (23%).
- A secondary, but still very high priority overall, is **supporting needed programs and services in Iran.**
 - Important policy priorities in this area include **providing access to free high-speed internet** in Iran (36%) and **supporting programs in Iran such as media, educational, and humanitarian** (21%).
- **Both U.S. domestic issues and U.S. foreign policy towards Iran are very important** to Iranian American voters in California.
 - A majority say that **both domestic issues and U.S. – Iran relations are important to them when voting for a political candidate** (56%) so much so that they cannot choose one as more important than the other.
 - Their top domestic issue is **the economy and jobs** (49%), followed by **healthcare** (36%) and **gun control** (32%).
 - By far the top issue directly affecting Iranian Americans in California is **making immigration/tourist visas for family easier to get** (44%).
- Iranian Americans in California largely identify with issue organizations along ideological lines. While most Iranian Americans in California do not identify with any of the organizations on the provided list or are not sure, **the top Iranian organizations are IADC (12% align) and NUFDI (10% align).**
 - **Planned Parenthood** is the top organization overall (20% align), driven by liberals.
 - More Iranian American voters can identify organizations they oppose than those they align with. **There is consensus opposition to organizations associated with Maryam Rajavi** (37% oppose) and **NIAC action** (28% oppose) across ideology. There is also strong opposition to **the NRA** (33% oppose) driven by liberals and moderates.

Iranian American voters in California feel that both domestic and U.S./Iran relations are very important to their vote – a majority cannot pick between the two. Among those who chose only one or the other, domestic issues are more important by a wide margin. Domestic issues are slightly more important to younger voters, while older voters are more likely to say both.

Most Important Issue When Voting For A Political Candidate

Single select question. All numbers are %s and will add up to close to 100* across response options.

*%s may not add up to exactly 100 due to rounding and refusals.



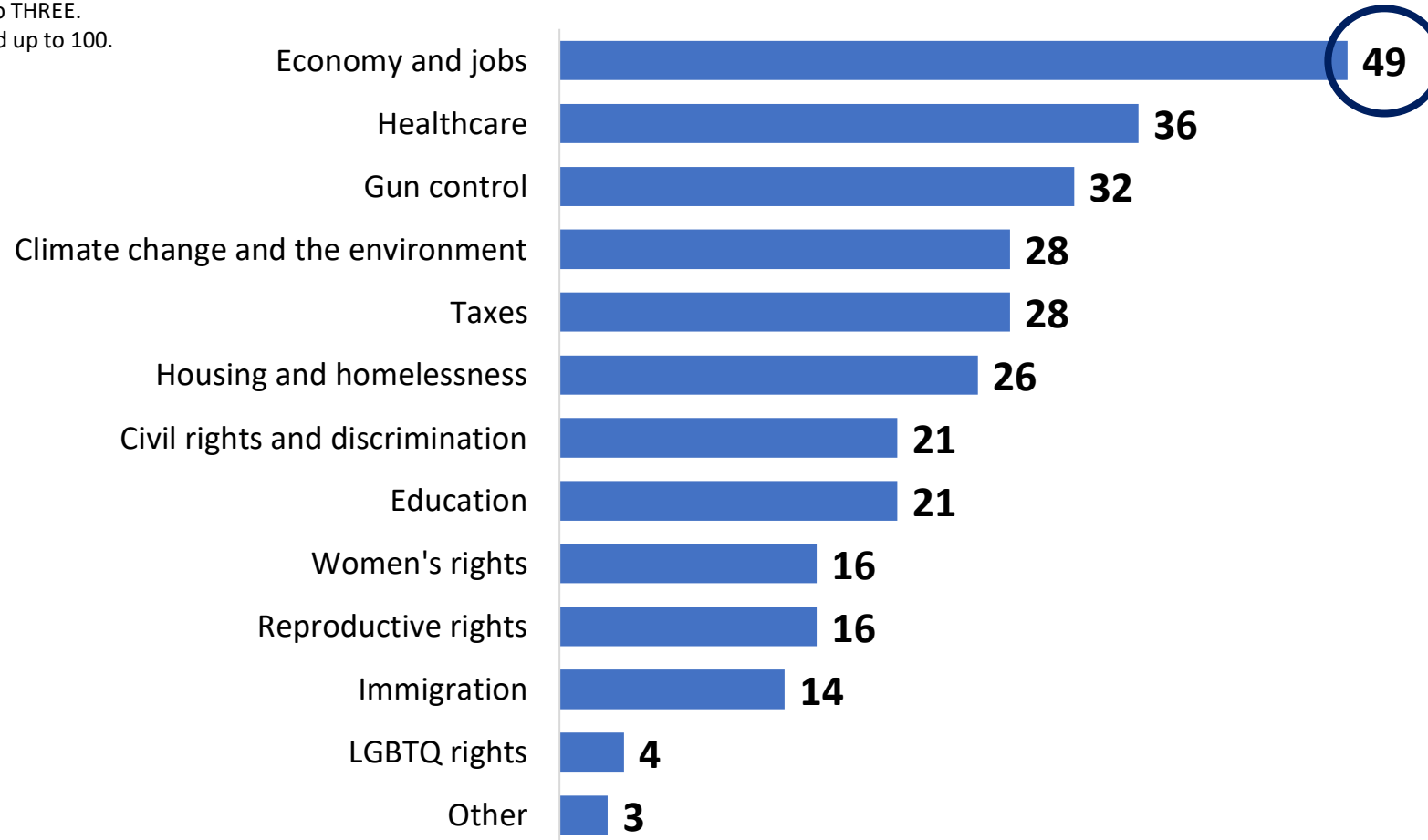
By Demographics	Domestic Issues	U.S. – Iran Relations	Both	Net
Total	38	5	56	+33
Men	40	4	56	+36
Women	37	5	57	+32
Liberal	37	5	58	+32
Moderate	41	6	52	+35
Conservative	38	6	56	+32
Under 60	43	3	53	+40
60+	33	7	60	+26
Democrat	40	4	55	+36
Republican	39	7	54	+32
NPP/Other	36	4	59	+32
LA County	37	3	60	+34
Orange	35	7	58	+28
San Diego/Inland	43	10	48	+33
Bay Area	36	4	59	+32
College	38	5	55	+33
Non-College	38	4	58	+34

When voting for a political candidate, which of the following issues is most important to you?

The top domestic issue for Iranian Americans in California by a significant margin is the economy and jobs. It is followed by healthcare. More polarizing issues like gun control, climate change, taxes, and housing and homelessness form the rest of the second tier.

Top Domestic Policy Issues

Multi select question – select up to THREE.
All numbers are %s but will *not* add up to 100.

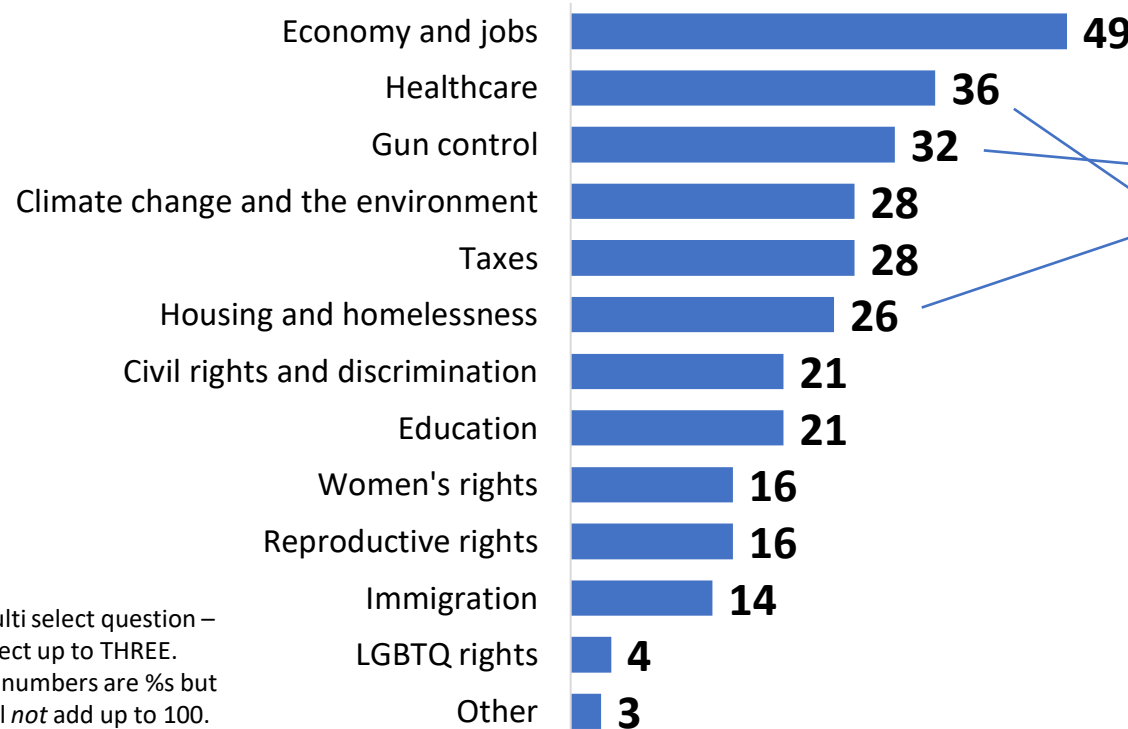


In terms of domestic policies, which of the following issues would you say are the THREE most important things for you as an Iranian American voter? [RANDOMIZE]

Looking at a similar, but not identical, list of top issues polled among all registered Californian voters in June: the economy is at the top of both, but housing and homelessness are ranked much higher among all California voters, while health care is ranked much higher among Iranian Americans. Crime and gun control are major concerns in the two polls respectively.

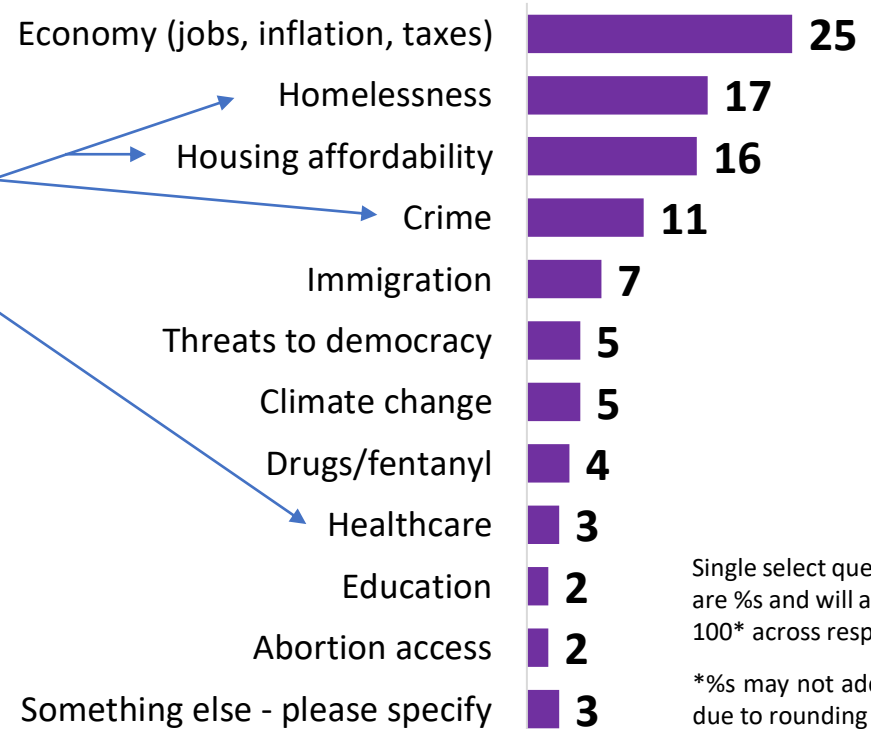
Top Domestic Policy Issues

LRP Poll of Iranian Americans (select three)



Multi select question – select up to THREE. All numbers are %s but will not add up to 100.

Emerson Poll of all CA Voters (select one)



Single select question. All numbers are %s and will add up to close to 100* across response options. *%s may not add up to exactly 100 due to rounding and refusals.

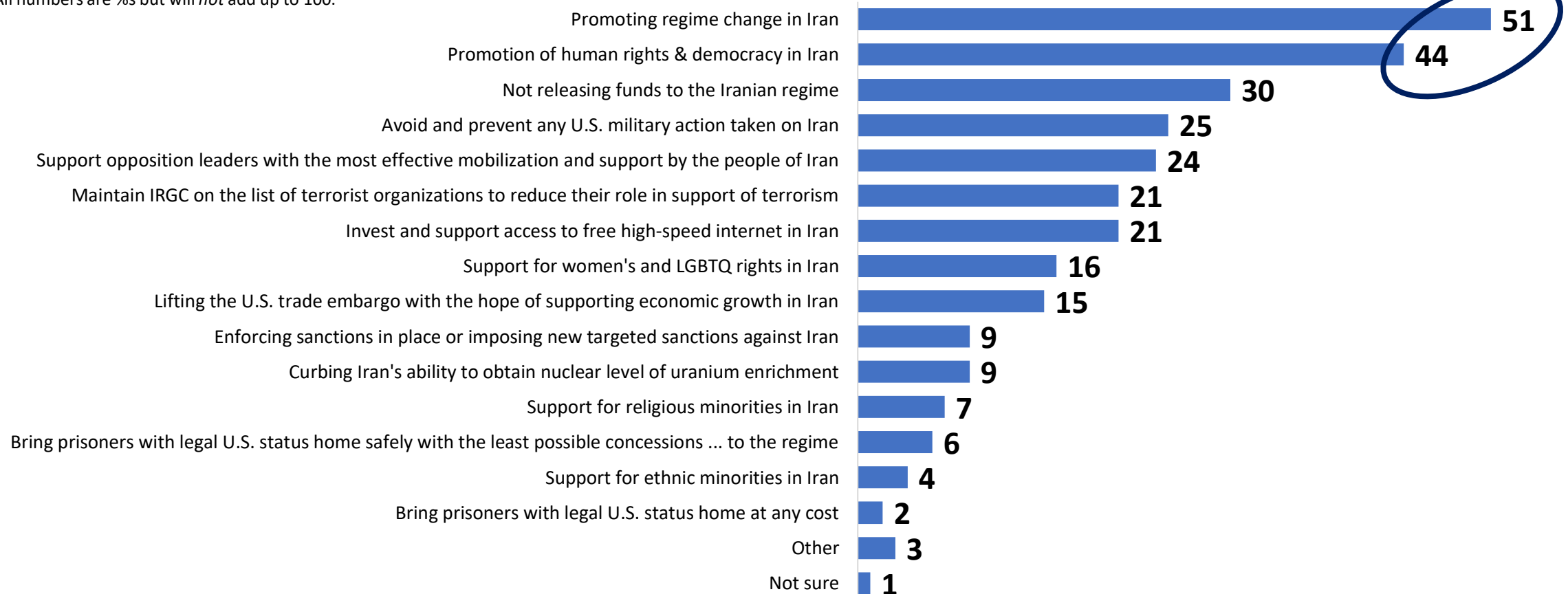
In terms of domestic policies, which of the following issues would you say are the THREE most important things for you as an Iranian American voter? [RANDOMIZE]

What do you think is the most important? <https://emersoncollegepolling.com/california-poll-majority-of-california-voters-think-feinstein-should-resign/>

The top priority for Iranian American voters in California when it comes to U.S. & Iran relations is promoting regime change in Iran, followed by promoting human rights and democracy in second, and not releasing funds to the regime in third. Voters clearly want to see support for opposition to the regime and aid to Iran's citizens from the U.S., but preferably without U.S. military action.

Top U.S. – Iran Relations Issues

Multi select question – select up to THREE.
All numbers are %s but will *not* add up to 100.

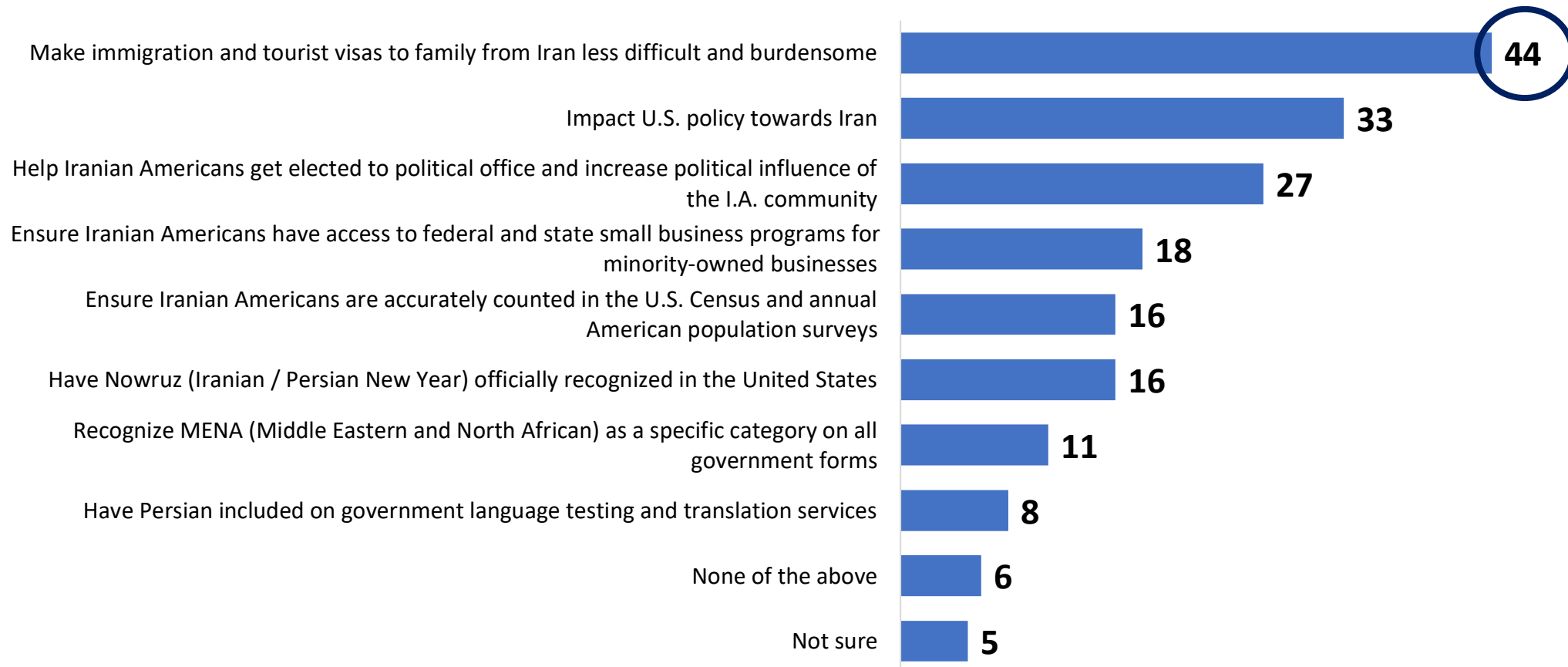


When it comes to U.S. – Iran relations, which of the following issues would you say are the THREE most important things for you as an Iranian American voter? [RANDOMIZE]

The issue most personally important to Iranian American voters in California is to make getting immigration and tourist visas for family from Iran less difficult and burdensome. Voters also want to impact U.S. policy towards Iran and increase the Iranian community's political influence.

Top Iranian American Issues Personally

Multi select question – select up to TWO.
All numbers are %s but will *not* add up to 100.



Of the following issues affecting Iranian Americans in the United States, which TWO are most important to you personally? [RANDOMIZE]

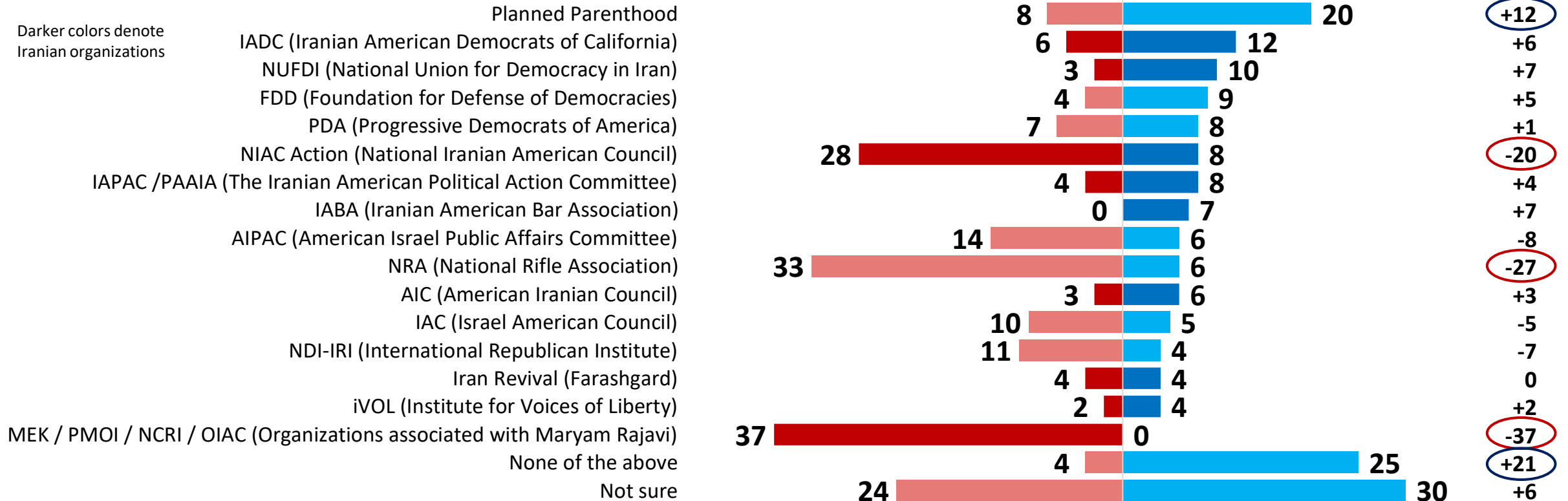
More Iranian American voters can identify organizations they oppose than those they align with. Alignment falls firmly along ideological lines. The groups with the most opposition are those associated with Maryam Rajavi, the NRA, and NIAC Action. While most Iranian Americans in California do not identify with any of the organizations on the list or are not sure, the top organization is Planned Parenthood. The top Iranian organizations are IADC and NUFDI.

Opinion of Organizations

Multi select questions – UNLIMITED.

All numbers are %s but will *not* add up to 100.

Darker colors denote Iranian organizations



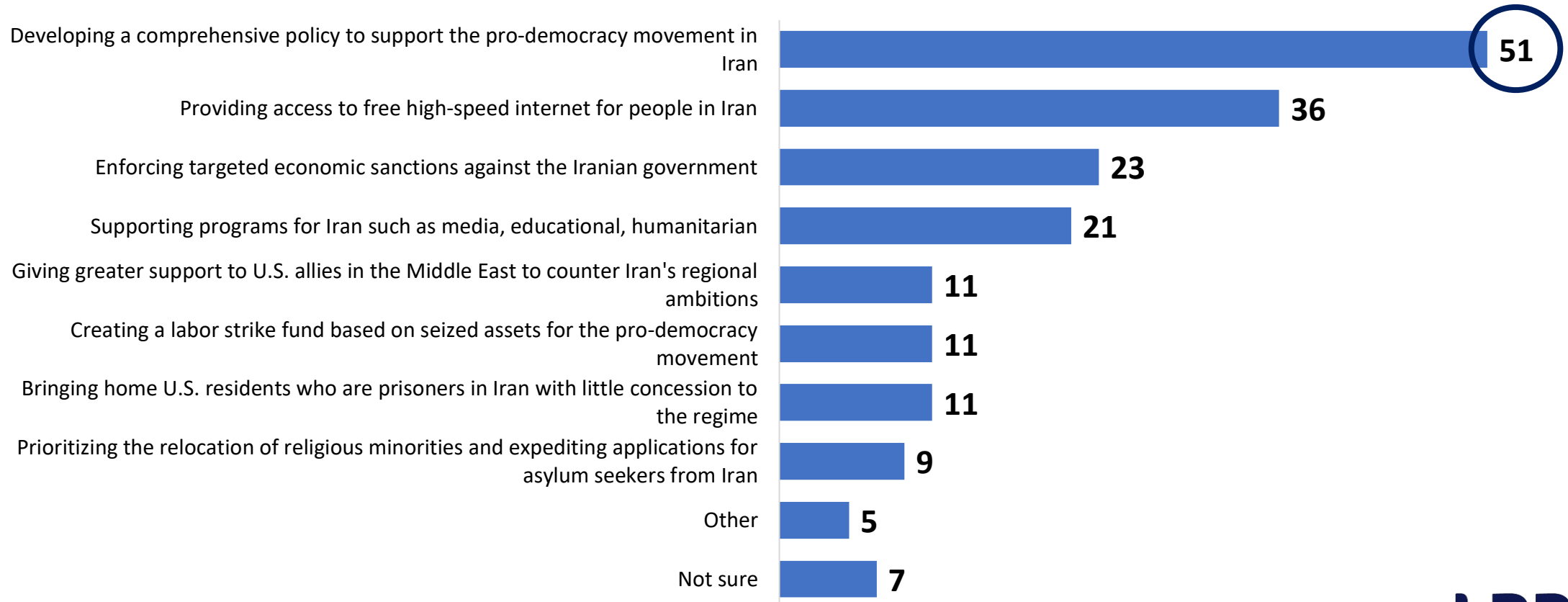
Of the following Iranian-American organizations, which aligns most closely with your views? Please select all that apply. [RANDOMIZE] [ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

From the same list of Iranian-American organizations, which do you strongly OPPOSE? Please select all that apply. [RANDOMIZE] [ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

A majority of Iranian Americans in California pick developing a comprehensive policy to support the pro-democracy movement in Iran as their top priority when it comes to U.S. government dealings with Iran. In a solid second is providing high speed internet, and lower down the list but still notable are enforcing sanctions and supporting media, educational, and humanitarian programs.

Top Priorities – U.S. Government Dealing With Iran

Multi select question – select up to TWO.
All numbers are %s but will *not* add up to 100.



Which of the following issues are the TWO top priorities for you when it comes to the U.S. government dealing with Iran? [RANDOMIZE]

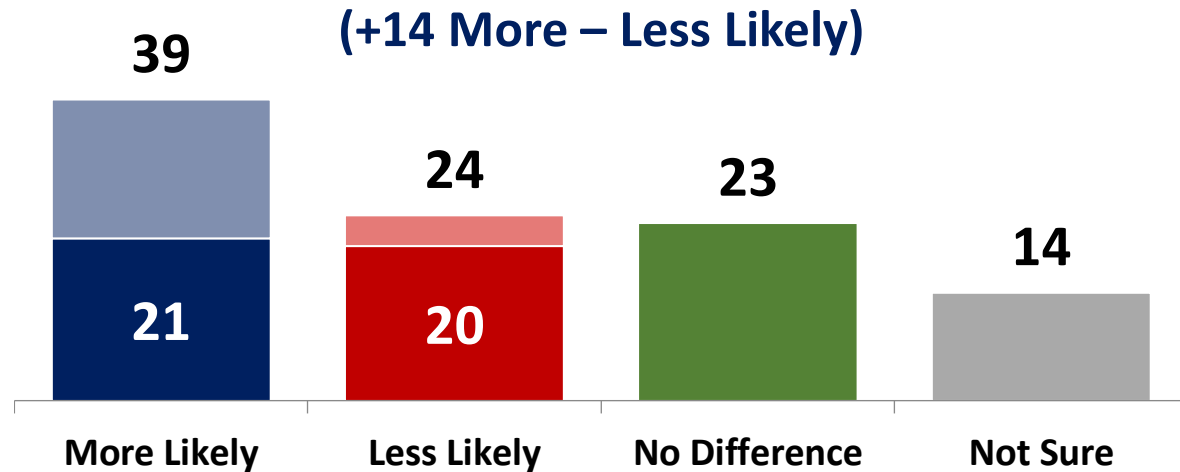
Voters' reaction to a candidate supporting a nuclear deal depends on whether such a deal would include concessions to the regime. Without concessions, Iranian American voters in California are divided but lean towards being more likely to vote for a candidate who supports such a deal, with many saying it makes no difference or they are unsure. If concessions were included, half say that they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supports that deal, with high intensity.

Vote Likelihood – Candidate Who Supports Nuclear Deal With Iran

Without Normalizing Relations/Releasing Funds/Reducing Sanctions

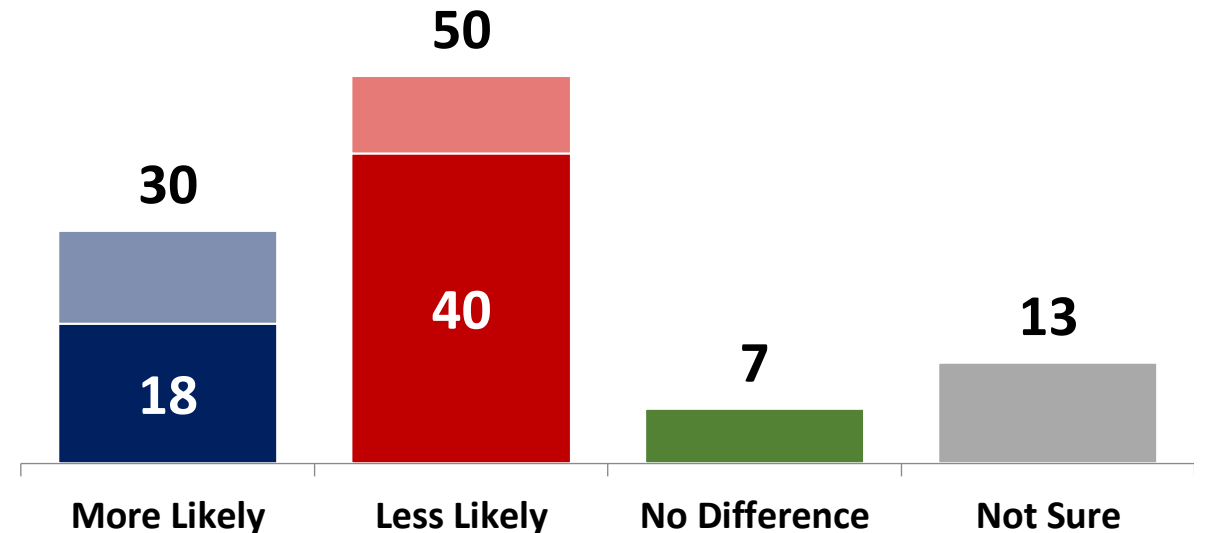
Single select questions. All numbers are %s and will add up to close to 100* across response options.

*%s may not add up to exactly 100 due to rounding and refusals.



With Normalizing Relations/Releasing Funds/Reducing Sanctions

(-20 More – Less Likely)



Somewhat More Likely
 Much More Likely
 Somewhat Less Likely
 Much Less Likely

If a candidate for office supported a deal between the U.S. and Iran limiting nuclear enrichment in Iran, would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate, or does it make no difference to you?

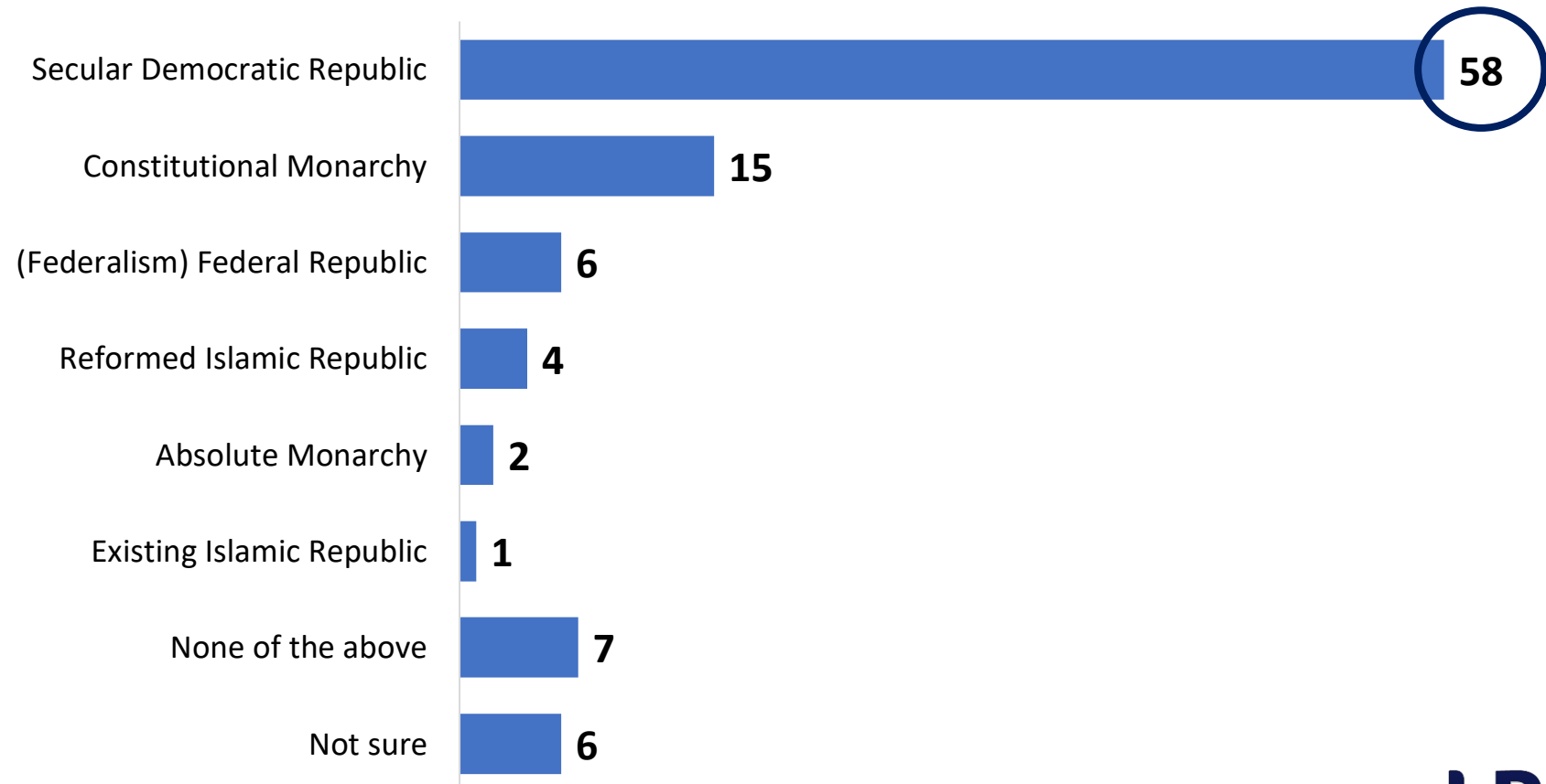
On a similar note, if a candidate for office supported a deal limiting nuclear enrichment in Iran that also requires normalizing relations, or release of frozen funds and reducing sanctions on Iran, would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate, or does it make no difference to you?

A clear majority of Iranian Americans in California say that a Secular Democratic Republic aligns with their aspirations for the future of Iran. Constitutional Monarchy is the next most popular option, in a very distant second. None of the other options receive a meaningful level of support.

Future Aspirations for Iran

Single select question. All numbers are %s and will add up to close to 100* across response options.

*%s may not add up to exactly 100 due to rounding and refusals.

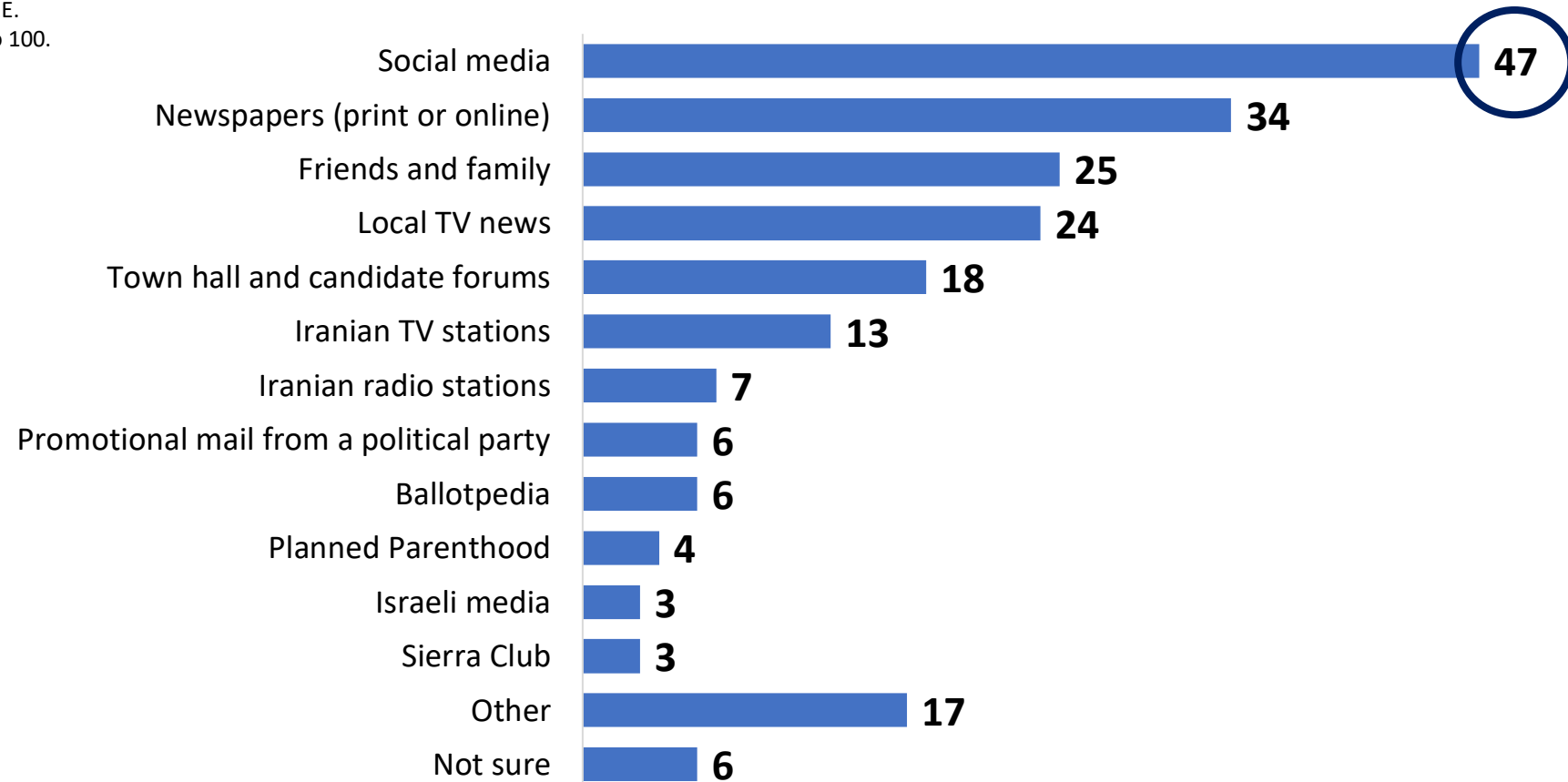


Generally speaking, which of the following ideologies most closely aligns with your aspiration for the future of Iran? [RANDOMIZE]

Social media is by far the most widely used source of information on political candidates among Iranian Americans in California. Newspapers are also an important information source used by over a third, while friends and family and local TV news are used by roughly a quarter. Fewer but still significant numbers also consult town hall forums and Iranian TV stations.

Sources of Information

Multi select question – select up to THREE.
All numbers are %s but will *not* add up to 100.



Which of the following sources do you use most often for information on choosing a political candidate? [RANDOMIZE] [ACCEPT UP TO THREE]

LRP LAKE RESEARCH PARTNERS

Strategy · Precision · Impact



Washington, DC | Berkeley, CA | New York, NY

LakeResearch.com

202.776.9066

David Mermin

dmermin@lakeresearch.com

Emily Garner

egarner@lakeresearch.com

Nikolai Schweber

nschweber@lakeresearch.com

Connor Olio

colio@lakeresearch.com